

## CLAIMS

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1. Apparatus for displaying finger patterns of a stringed instrument the apparatus comprising:

a base board having thereon a pattern of chromatic notes, each note positioned in the same relative position as it appears on the finger board of the stringed instrument; and

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a plurality of templates for placement over the base board, each template corresponding to at least one particular key in a particular position and defining a plurality of holes through which notes corresponding to the particular key are visible.

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2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each template can be releasably secured to the base board to represent twelve different major keys in more than seven different positions.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein all of the templates can be simultaneously and releasably secured to the base board.

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4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the templates are color-coded.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the templates are color-coded in a predetermined pattern.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the templates are color-coded in a sequence corresponding to at least a partial spectrum of a rainbow.

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7. The apparatus of claim 1, and further comprising:  
a base having thereon a plurality of color-coded bars extending radially outward  
from a center of the base, each bar corresponds to a finger pattern of the  
stringed instrument and the arrangement of the bars corresponds to the  
cyclic nature of finger patterns on the finger board of the stringed  
instrument; and  
a plurality of key signatures adjacent to each bar.

10 8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein each bar corresponds to a finger  
pattern code.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein each finger pattern code is a  
combination of four letters, and corresponding to a finger pattern to be used to play  
notes for twelve major keys in their corresponding positions.

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10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein four of the letters are taken from a set of seven letters h, m, l, O, H, M, L, and wherein:

**h** as half step (the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> degrees of note in a major scale) to be played by the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> fingers, the rests are whole steps in a tetrachord;

5 **m** as half step (the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> degrees of note in a major scale) to be played by the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers, the rests are whole steps in a tetrachord;

**l** as half step (the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> degrees of note in a major scale) to be played by the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> fingers, the rests are whole steps in a tetrachord;

10 **O** as all four fingers are spread out with whole steps (degrees of note 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> in a major scale) in between in a tetrachord;

**H** as half step (the 7<sup>th</sup> and upper tonic notes in a major scale) to be played by the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> fingers, the rests are whole steps in a tetrachord;

15 **M** as half step (the 7<sup>th</sup> and upper tonic notes in a major scale) to be played by the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers, the rests are whole steps in a tetrachord; and

**L** as half step (the 7<sup>th</sup> and upper tonic notes in a major scale) to be played by the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> fingers, the rests are whole steps in a tetrachord.

11. Apparatus for displaying finger patterns of a stringed instrument, the apparatus comprising:

a scale board having thereon a pattern of numbers, each number corresponding to a degree of a note for a given diatonic major scale and positioned in the same relative position as the degree of the note appears on the finger board of the stringed instrument; and

a ladder frame for placement on the scale board in a plurality of positions, the ladder frame defining a plurality of windows to expose the scale board numbers.

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12. The apparatus of claim 11, and further comprising:

a transparent overlay for positioning over the scale board, the transparent overlay having thereon a pattern of numbers, each number corresponding to a certain degree of a note for a given diatonic major scale and positioned in the same relative position as the degree of the note appears on the finger board of the stringed instrument.

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13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the scale board numbers represent the first, third, fourth, and seventh degree of a diatonic major scale.

14. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the transparent overlay numbers represent the second, fifth, and sixth degree of the diatonic major scale.

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15. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the ladder frame can be releasably secured to the scale board.

16. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the ladder frame defines seven lateral windows.

17. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the ladder frame defines seven lateral windows, the seventh window comprising a designation that the seventh window is not used on certain finger patterns.

18. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein there are seven sequentially  
5 numbered degrees of notes positioned in a fixed horizontal sequence in an arrangement where there is no degree number to the left of four and no degree number to the right of seven.

19. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the scale board corresponds to a four-stringed instrument.

10 20. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the ladder frame defines five windows and the scale board and the transparent overlay correspond to a six-stringed instrument.

15 21. A puzzle comprising:  
a board having blank portions; and  
a plurality of puzzle pieces corresponding to notes that can be placed in the board blank portions in spacings corresponding to the note spacings on a string-instrument fingerboard.

22. The puzzle of claim 21, wherein the puzzle pieces are colored to enhance the play value of the puzzle.

20 23. The puzzle of claim 21, wherein the board is proportioned in size relative to a violin, viola, or cello fingerboard.

24. Th puzzle of claim 21 wherein the board is proportioned in size to a guitar fingerboard.

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